



# News Release

20080929-01

For Immediate Release



September 29, 2008

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## Fredericksburg Police Department Urges Caution Regarding Home Invasions

In light of recent home invasions in both Stafford and Orange Counties, the City of Fredericksburg urges its residents to use caution when opening their doors to any unexpected or unknown person. Many of the reported incidents in our neighboring jurisdictions involved a suspect claiming to be checking the water, and Director of Public Works Doug Fawcett clarified the standard procedures used by his employees:

- Public Works employees will virtually never knock on the door and request access unless they are responding to a call for service from the resident.
- A Public Works employee who needs to interact with a resident at the resident's home to perform his/her duties will always be driving a vehicle clearly marked as belonging to the City (orange or white – City seal on the side and a three digit number). They will not be driving their own vehicle or some other unmarked vehicle.
- Any resident who wishes to verify that a Public Works employee is legitimate should ask the employee for his/her name, then call the Public Works office at 372-1023 during regular business hours or the non-emergency number at the Police Department at 373-3122 at other times. Public Works employees will not object to waiting outside the residence until the resident has confirmed that they are legitimate.

The Police Department additionally advises that residents make sure their doors and windows are secured and locked at all times, even when someone is at home, and to verify the identity of strangers before opening the door. Suspicious persons or activity should be reported to the Police Department immediately at 373-3122 (non-emergency) or **911** in an emergency.

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